O'Sullivan, Paul Michael

Aug-Oct 1917

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O'Sullivan, Paul Michael

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1155 King St. West.

August 7. 1917.

Sir. Robert Falconer.
President. University of Toronto.

Dear Sir,

I should like to take advantage of the invitation you have extended to returned soldiers to visit you, to ask the favour of an interview.

Perhaps you may remember that I worked under the late lamented Prof. Brodie, for three years as fellow in Physiology. During that time I was engaged on a research which should furnish a thesis for the degree of Ph.D. The thesis was finished, saving details for the printer when the outbreak of the war forced me to leave these arrangements to Prof. Brodie. His untimely death shattered these hopes, though Mr Brebner has been most assiduous in trying to find the manuscript.

It has always been my ambition to devote myself to teaching & research work in some branch of Medicine and it is in reference to this matter that I ~~should~~ am particularly desirous of seeing you.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Paul M. O'Sullivan

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Oct 25, 1917

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Aug. Oct 1917

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159 Brian Hill Ave
Toronto, Oct 25, 1917

Dear Doctor Hunter,

With reference to our conversation of yesterday I wish to explain more clearly my position relative to the Lectureship in Physiology. I pointed out to the President, when this position was proposed to me, that my principal financial income was derived from my military duties, but that I would gladly undertake to give lectures in Physiology not only because of the welcome addition to an inadequate income entailed, but also because it might lead, later on, after the war, to a permanent academic future in his or some other University. I emphasized the fact, however, that I had just recently recovered from a nervous breakdown, the result of Shell Concussion & other disabilities, the result of active service, and that I was doubtful whether I could stand the irksome accessory demonstration work which took up a large amount of time out of all proportion to its importance. Formerly the supervision of laboratory work was confided to Fellows.

I find however that Dr Hartmann regards attendance during these hours essential and wishes to change the lecture hours agreed upon in the beginning, so as to deduct two more hours per week from my work at Spadina Military Hospital. Moreover I am expected to give a Mammalian Demonstration every alternate Thursday, which has recently been modified so that the 6 or 7 Demonstrations assigned to me are to be given on successive Thursdays until completed. To give these demonstrations properly entails preparation during the entire preceding afternoon.

Although I have received permission from the A.D.M.S to ~~allow~~ demonstrate Phys. on Tuesday & Wed. mornings, owing to the scarcity of medical officers the amount of work to be done in my clinic is undiminished and consequently

my work in the afternoons is prolonged until 6 or 7 every evening. Then each lecture requires at a minimum 3 hours to prepare.

The result of these conditions is inevitable, neither my work at the Hospital nor at the University is done to my own satisfaction, and I feel acutely, to that of my superiors. The effort is beyond my strength, and a temporary loss of memory I experienced in my lecture yesterday & a complete mental exhaustion which keeps me at home today has convinced me that I have attempted too much & that the duties involved are greater than I anticipated.

It is my earnest wish to give the two courses of lectures in Physiology to the IInd & IIIrd year Meds, because I wish to put into practice certain ideas in method of teaching which I entertain. I find I have not sufficient time to devote to their preparation & I feel I am not doing myself justice & that the lectures are not as helpful to the students as I know I can make them.

I must ask you therefore to relieve me of demonstrator duties & allow me to concentrate my efforts on the lectures. I am told that when Miss Cullis arrives sometime next year that she will take over the lectures, ~~[illegible]~~ but I am prepared to give the full set & this element of uncertainty of this eventuality would offset any depreciation of the relative importance of the lectures.

It has been suggested that my military duties be still further cut down in order to devote more time to University work. That I cannot bring myself to do, as they have already treated me generously. In comparison with the urgency that exists for medical services for returned soldiers the disciplinary work of Demonstrating seems trivial. Because I enjoy teaching & I have adequate time for preparation I would be willing to have deducted from my pay whatever portion you consider commensurate with the extra-lecture work.

Sorry to be so prolix but I could not explain myself in fewer words. Faithfully yours

Paul E. Stillman

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University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY

Oct. 30th., 1917.

STATEMENT IN REGARD TO THE WORK WHICH DR. O'SULLIVAN WISHES TO DISCONTINUE.

The work which Dr. O'Sullivan is discontinuing is as follows:-
A Laboratory class which meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 to 1.
A demonstration which is from 10 - 12 on Thursdays.

The Laboratory work extends through the first twenty weeks, while the demonstration work extends through the first ten weeks. The demonstration work requires much more than the two hours on the calendar on account of the time necessary to prepare for it.

$200 off O'Sullivan
$300 added to Hartmann.